

**From:** Doug Black  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 9:35am  
**Subject:** Comment on Microsoft Settlement

I am outraged at Microsoft's offer to buy its way out of its antitrust conviction by giving away Microsoft software. Quite apart from the fact that Microsoft is overstating the value of its products, this action would have the effect of extending Microsoft's monopoly control even farther.

My wife graduated college not long ago. She was REQUIRED to take a course in Microsoft Office products as part of her degree program. To me, this proves that Microsoft already has too much influence in the academic world. For Microsoft to give its software to schools would extend this bias even further.

There are alternatives to using Microsoft products. Any settlement in the Microsoft antitrust case should have the effect of encouraging competition in the marketplace, not eliminating it.

Sincerely,

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